

Goal of the Circle of Grace Curriculum- Pre-K- Grade 12

The goal of the *Circle of Grace* curriculum is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

Objectives of the Circle of Grace Curriculum - Pre-K- Grade 12

- Children and young people will understand they are created by God and live in God's love along with the love of God's son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Children and young people will be able to describe the *Circle of Grace* which God gives each of us.
- Children and young people will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- Children and young people will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- Children and young people will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Testimonial of the Curriculum

"*Circle of Grace* is so timely. Thank you! Even if the church leadership did not require it, the culture that we live in does. It is a perfect way to show that living our faith is a real adventure in the world in which we find ourselves. Faith intersects with life in the development of this program."

Outline of the Curriculum

Pre-Kindergarten - What is a *Circle of Grace*?

Kindergarten– Everyone has a *Circle of Grace*

Grade 1– Your *Circle of Grace* and Others

Grade 2– Being Safe in Your *Circle of Grace*

Grade 3 - Sacredness and Boundaries

Grade 4 - Social Media and Our *Circle of Grace*

Grade 5—Coping with Stress and Pressure

Grade 6 - Technology's Influence on our

Relationships **Grade 7** - Saying "No" to Disrespect

Grade 8 - Morally Responsible in Today's Culture

Gr. 5- 8 Alternate Lessons

- ◇ Honoring Relationships
- ◇ Consequences of Technology
- ◇ *Circle of Grace* and New Age Spirituality
- ◇ Humility and Modesty
- ◇ Navigating an "Anything Goes" Culture
- ◇ *Circle of Grace* Retreat

High School Lessons

Grade 9- N.O.T.I.C.E.: When Boundaries are Challenged

Grade 10 - Levels of Intimacy and Influence

Grade 11 - Tech Savvy or Tech Safe?

Grade 12 - Love and the Theology of the Body

High School Alternate Lessons

- ◇ A.C.T.I.O.N. Steps when Concerns Don't Go Away
- ◇ Modesty: A thing of the Past or Not?
- ◇ Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery
- ◇ Uncomfortable Situations with Peers
- ◇ *Circle of Grace* and New Age Spirituality
- ◇ Navigating an "Anything Goes" Culture
- ◇ *Circle of Grace* Retreat

For more program information contact:

Nancy Kauffmann

Safechurch@MennoniteUSA.org

Circle of Grace[©] *Safe Environment Curriculum*



Mennonite Church USA



Safe Church

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12

Mennonite church USA Protestant Version

Developed by:

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Circle of Grace is set apart from other programs by teaching:

- God's presence and assistance in difficult and confusing situations (in person and on line) as an essential component in the curriculum.
- a philosophy that can be used at all times that reinforces God's real presence in our lives, respect for self and others, and skills for good decision making.
- the sacredness of each person and how relationships are called to be experiences of divine love.
- beyond the "good touch-bad touch" models by addressing the whole person. Thus it is able to teach how boundary violations can occur through all of our senses.
- a holistic approach giving children and youth the skills to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch occurs.
- children and young people to identify the "trusted adults" in their lives in addition to their parents.
- Parents are actively involved through informative letters, lesson handouts, and educational material.

What is the Circle of Grace?

Circle of Grace is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us and all others. It is the recognition that God is with us always and is there to help us in difficult situations. Through the *Circle of Grace* curriculum, adults assist children and youth to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a *Circle of Grace*. Your *Circle of Grace* holds your very essence in body, mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. This is taught in a visual and real way by the following meditation. One can demonstrate this meditation and ponder it's profound simplicity.

Imagine:

Raise your hands above your head, then bring your outstretched arms slowly down.

Extend your arms
in front of you
and then behind you

Embrace all of the space around you
slowly reach down to your feet..

Know that **God** is in this space with you.

This is your
Circle of Grace;
You are in it.

Because this holistic concept includes all senses it allows children and young people to discern and identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch may occur. The *Circle of Grace* curriculum teaches children and young people to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real life struggles. If a parent or trusted adult isn't available or willing to help, God wants us to go to another trusted adult until we get the help we need to stay safe.

Circle of Grace is one of the few Curricula that has:

- each lesson correlated with appropriate Christian teaching.
- pre and post assessments for identified grades to ensure effectiveness.
- summary evaluations that capture required important information for administrators
- philosophy and goals which are consistent throughout the K-12 curriculum.
- comprehensive and self-contained materials for each grade.
- alternate lessons for Gr. 5-8 and Gr. 9-12 to better meet the safety needs of the students
- strong parent component to curriculum
- an administrator's section with all the information needed for implementation.
- a significantly lower cost than other programs.